



## Bureau of Land Management

# West Desert District Fuels

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### **West Desert BLM Fuels Projects Continue to Reduce Wildfire Size and Impacts**

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A West Desert District fuels project implemented nearly six years ago helped contain a fast moving wildfire recently. On August 6, 2009 lightning ignited the White Rock fire on Dugway Proving Ground and, due to strong winds, quickly consumed nearly 8,000 acres before burning onto public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Once on BLM land, greenstrips slowed and in some areas stopped the wildfire. Greenstrips are bands or strips of fire resistant vegetation. The plant species used are specifically selected because they hold more moisture throughout the year. Greenstrips reduce the opportunity for fires to start and spread rapidly; they slow fire spread and reduce fire size.



This image illustrates a section of land that had a significant component of cheat grass.

The White Rocks wildfire was slowed when it hit greenstrips and prior fire rehabilitation seeding on BLM lands.

The Salt Desert Shrub greenstrip project was one of the first fuels projects implemented within the West Desert District. The area was chosen due to its history of frequent fire occurrence and its proximity to the community of Dugway Proving Grounds, a military testing and training facility, and private working ranch communities. Prior to the October 2003 treatment, the vegetation in the treated area was largely dominated by cheatgrass. Today the treated area consists of less flammable vegetation.

For more information visit [www.utahfireinfo.gov](http://www.utahfireinfo.gov).